

# Education In Tennessee: At a Crossroads?

YMCA Youth Legislature

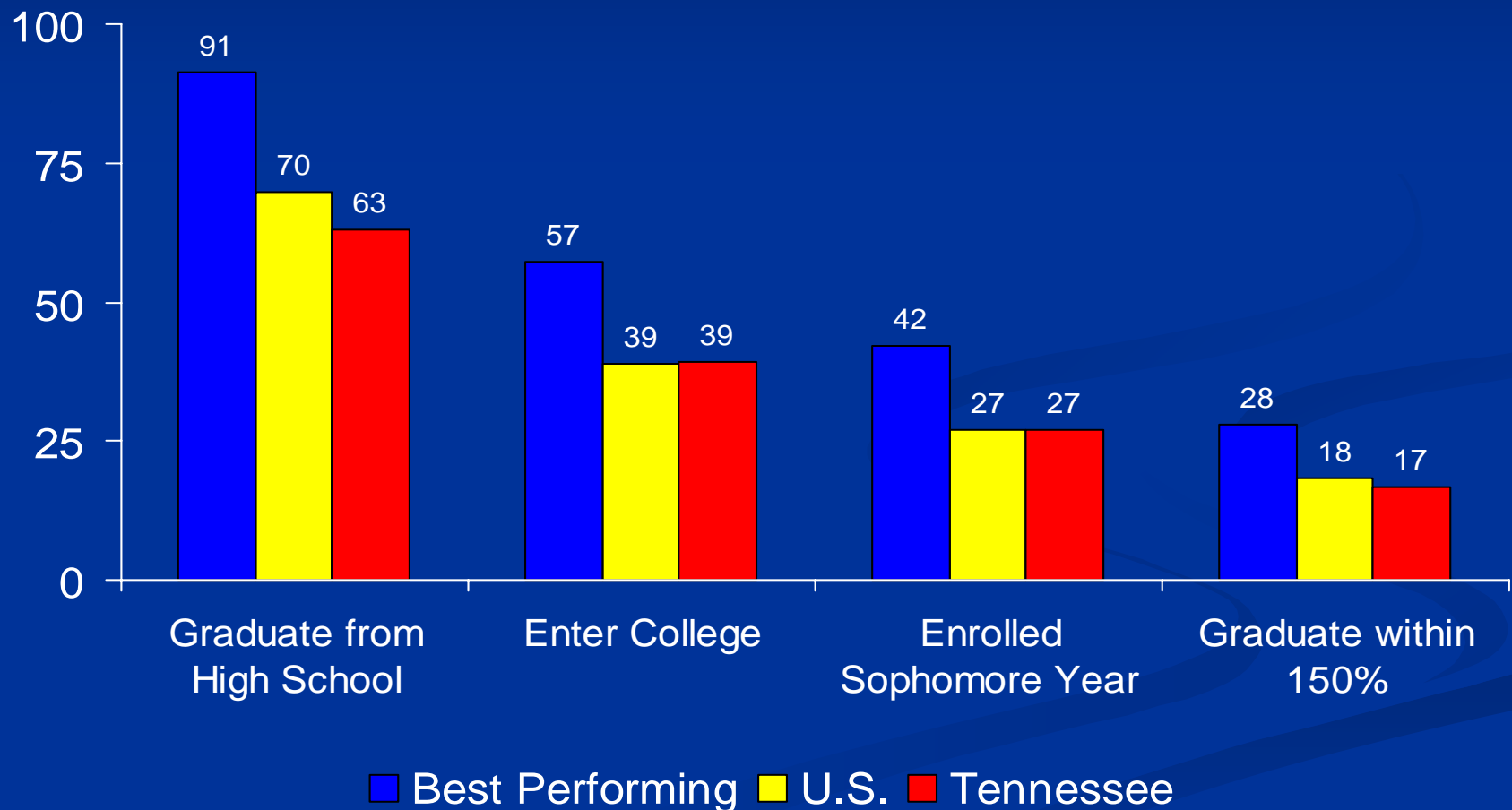
March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008

“When I compare our high schools to what I see when I'm traveling abroad, I am terrified for our work force of tomorrow. In math and science, our fourth graders are among the top students in the world. By eighth grade, they're in the middle of the pack. By 12th grade, U.S. students are scoring near the bottom of all industrialized nations. . . . The percentage of a population with a college degree is important, but so are sheer numbers. In 2001, India graduated almost a million more students from college than the United States did. China graduates twice as many students with bachelor's degrees as the U.S., and they have six times as many graduates majoring in engineering. In the international competition to have the biggest and best supply of knowledge workers, America is falling behind.”

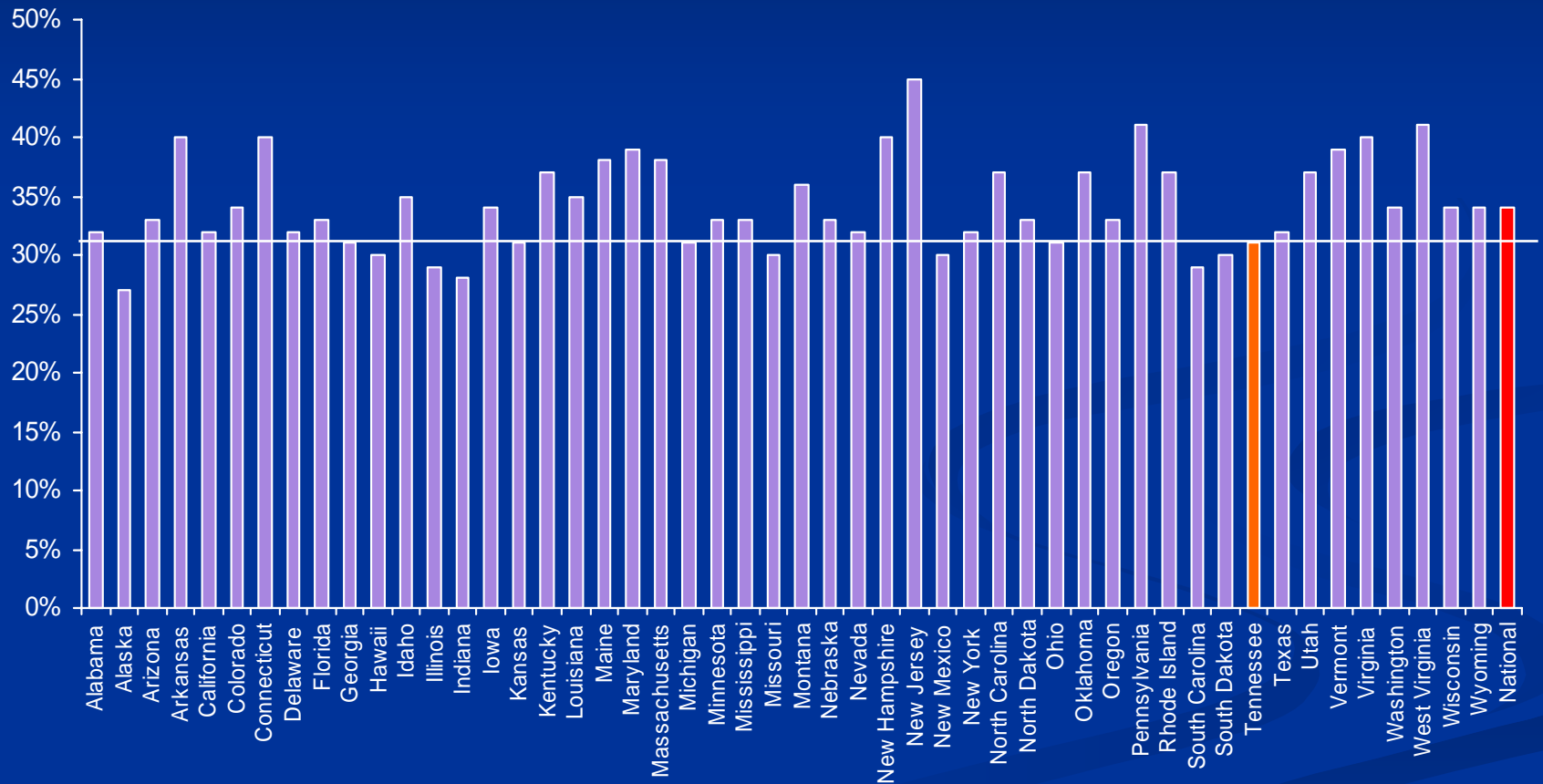
- Bill Gates, “America’s High Schools are Obsolete” Speech given to National Governors Association, February 26, 2005

- A 2005 survey of manufacturers by National Association of Manufacturers found:
  - 84% do not believe K-12 schools are doing a good job
  - 80% of are experiencing a shortage of qualified workers; they need problem solving skills, reading, writing and communication skills
  - They want more investment in teacher education, science and math instruction, and career education in school
- For students in elementary school today, the majority of jobs they will hold do not exist (Jim Carroll)
- In today's global economy, work gets done where it is most effective and efficient (Thomas Freidman)

# The Student Pipeline - Tennessee, 2004



# Public High School College Readiness Rates by State – 2002



SOURCE: Center for Civic Innovation, Manhattan Institute, *Public High School Graduation and College-Readiness Rates: 1991-2002*, Table 6, No. 8, February 2005

## Part II: Measuring College Readiness

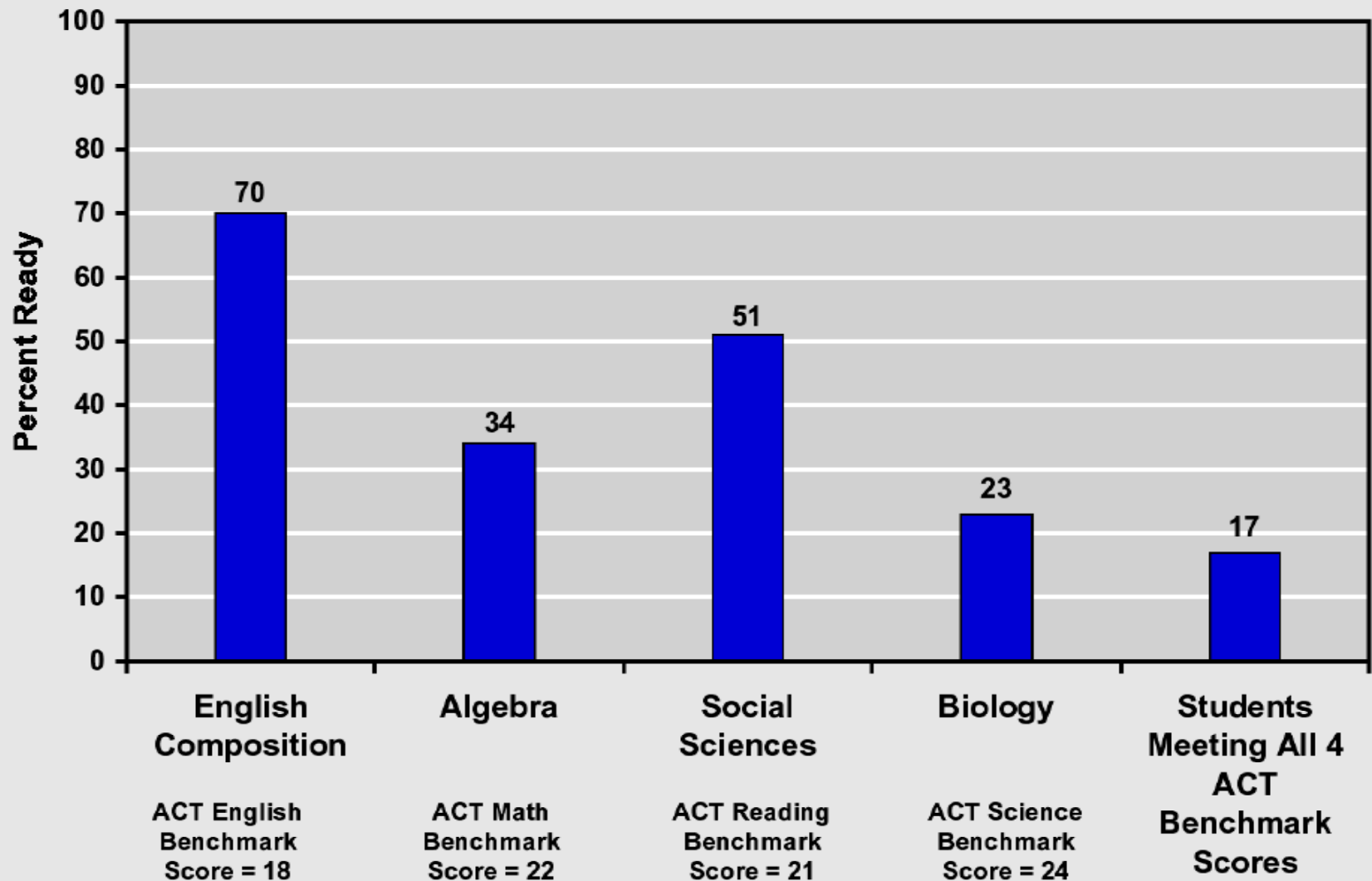
### ■ ACT College Readiness Benchmark Scores

■ Through collaborative research with postsecondary institutions nationwide, ACT has established the following College Readiness Benchmark Scores:

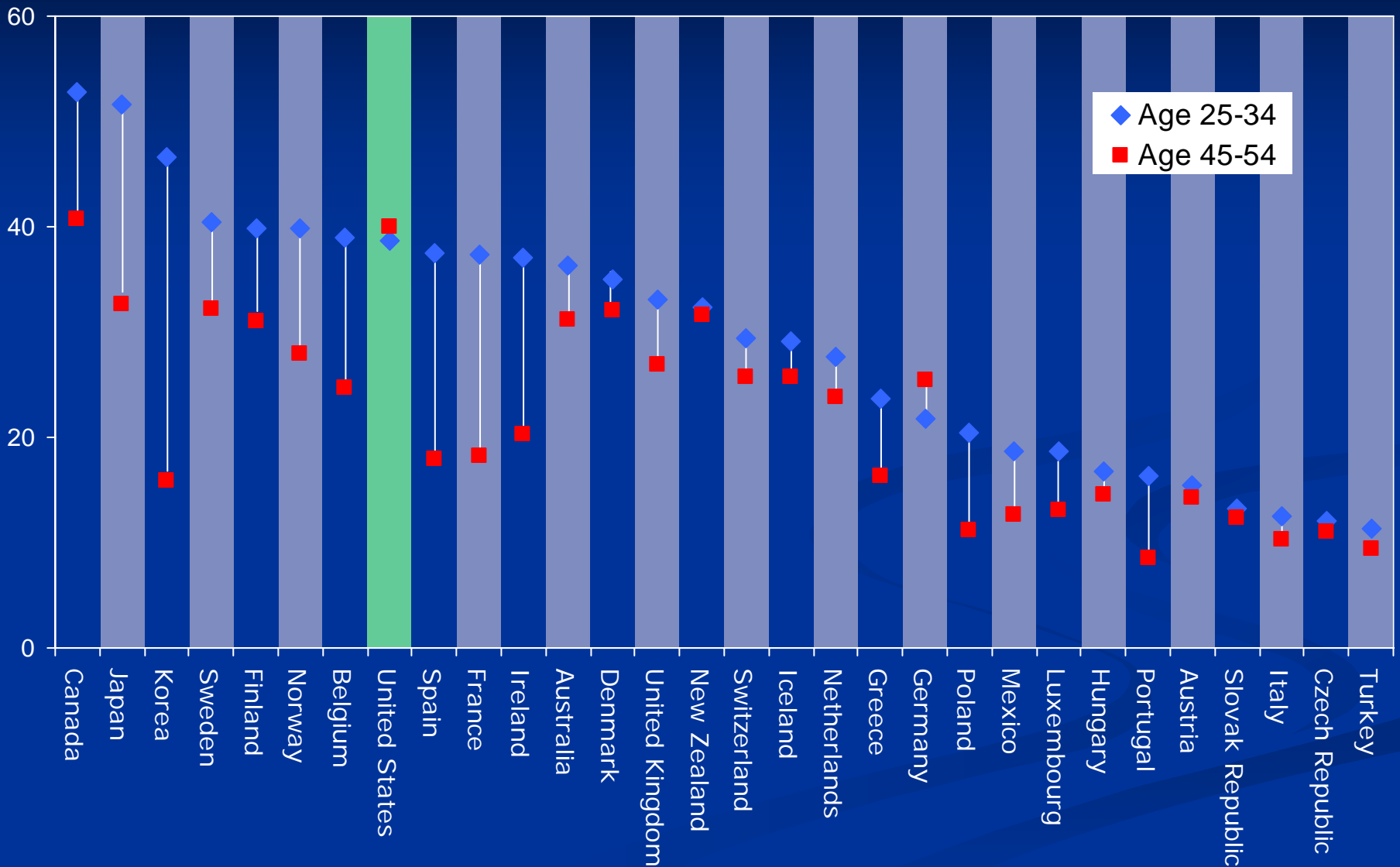
ACT Subject Area Test	College Course(s)	College Readiness Benchmark Score
English	English Composition	18
Math	Algebra	22
Reading	Social Sciences	21
Science	Biology	24

■ A benchmark score is the minimum score needed on an ACT subject area test to indicate a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in the corresponding credit-bearing college courses.

## 2006 Tennessee ACT-Tested Graduates Likely to Be Ready for College-Level Work (in percent)



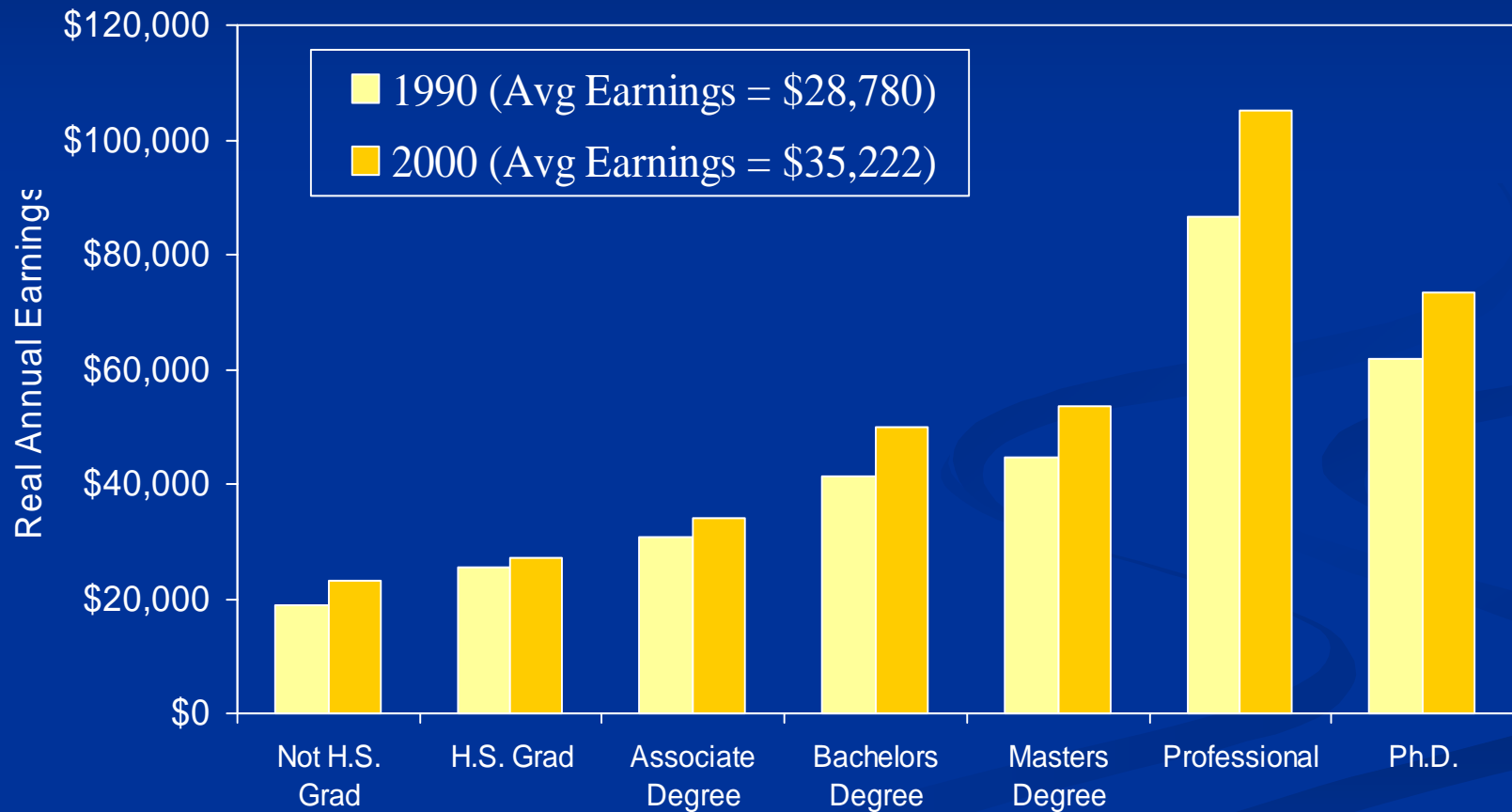
# Differences in College Attainment (Associate and Higher) Between Young and Older Adults, 2000



Source: Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development, American Community Survey

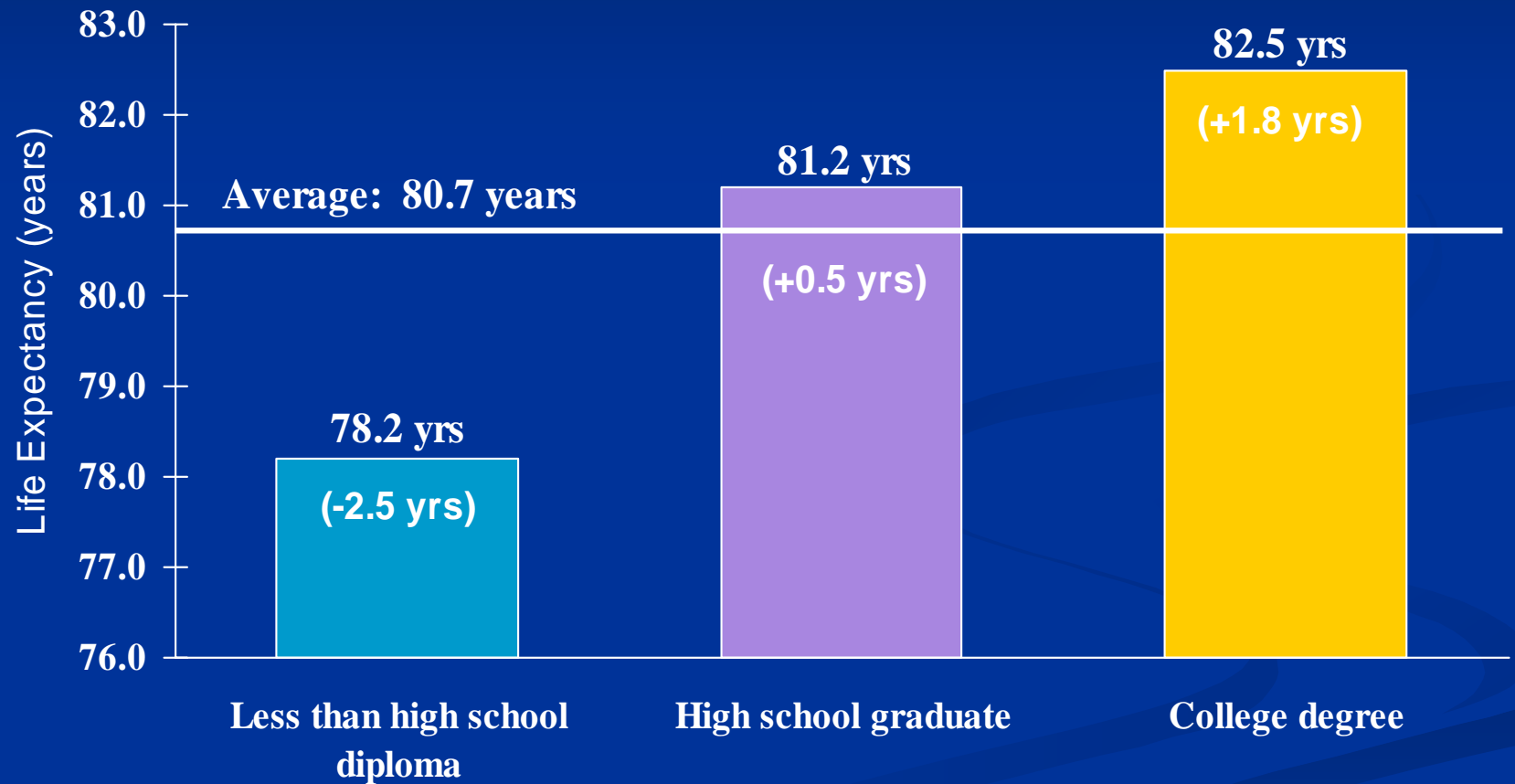


# Educational Attainment And Economic Well-being (Real Average Earnings): Tennesseans Aged 25 And Older

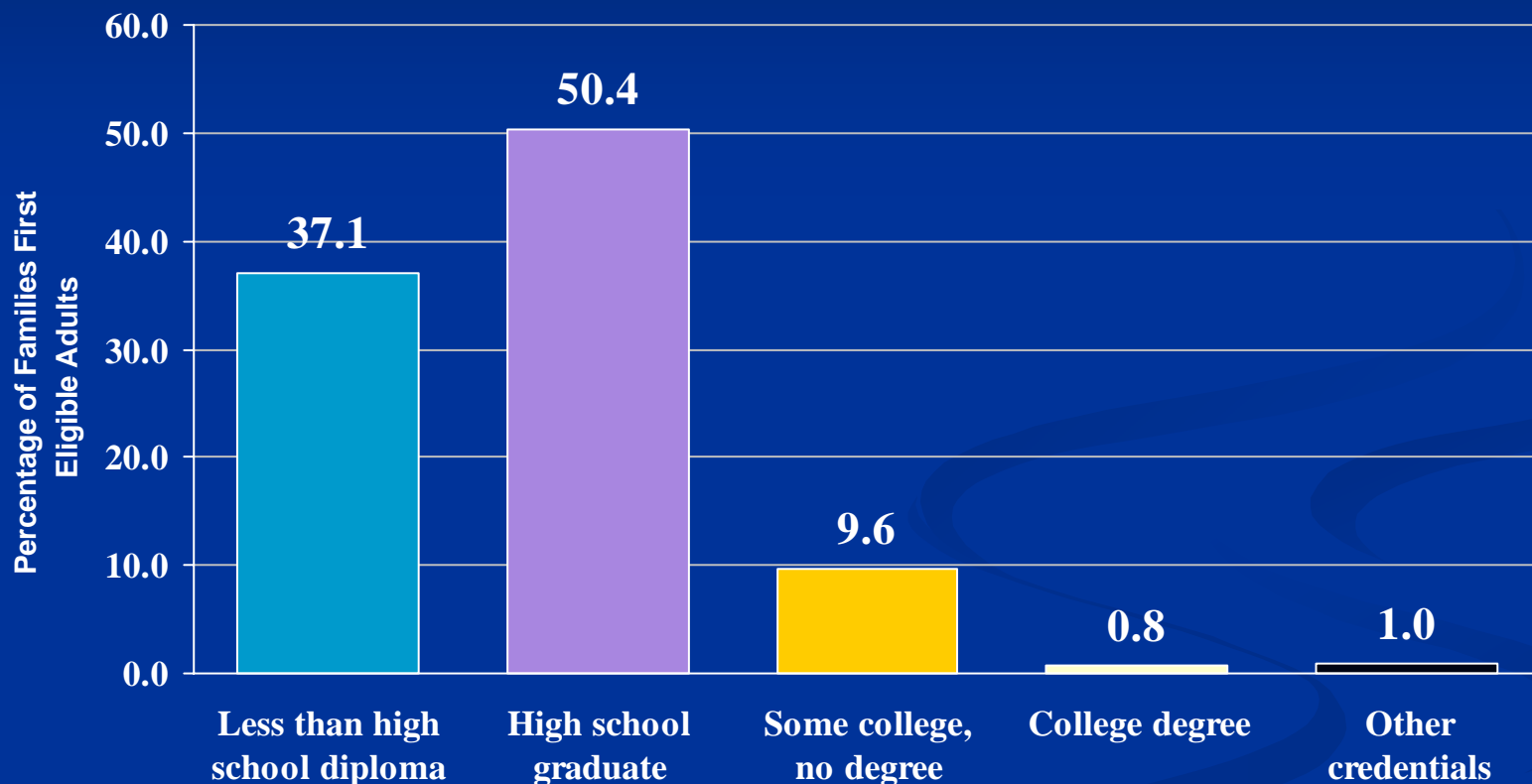


Source: CBER, UT

# A Person Without a High School Diploma has a Shorter Life Expectancy



# Highest Grade of School Completed by a Families First Eligible Adult

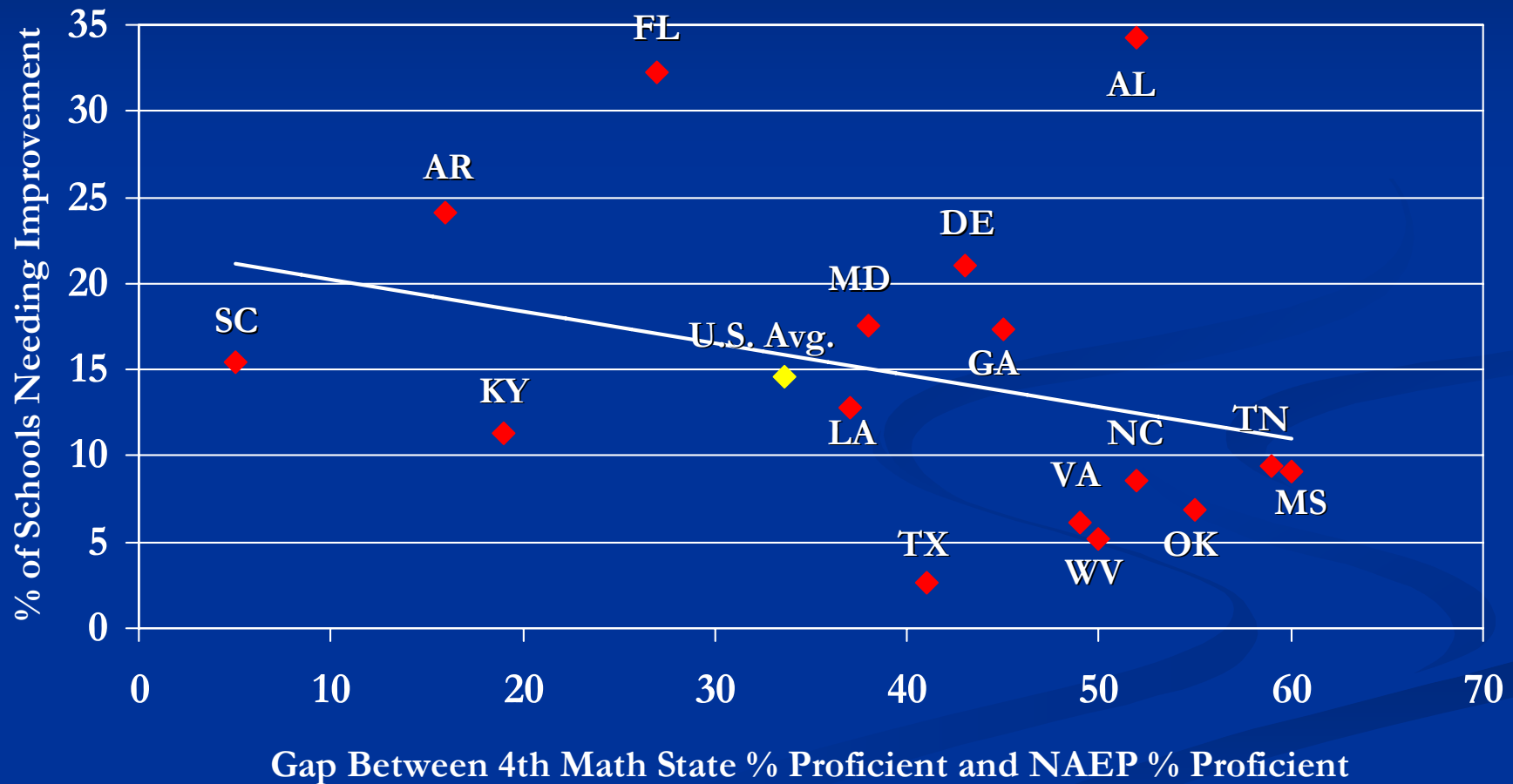


Source: Center for Business & Economic Research, University of Tennessee, Families First 2005 Case Characteristics Study.

# Heading In The Right Direction

- Tennessee participating in American Diploma project.
  - More closely aligned with national standards
  - Raise high school graduation requirements to increase the value of a high school diploma
  - Improve the alignment of curriculum content, assessments and exit requirements
  - Improve integration of educational levels from Pre-k through senior level of college

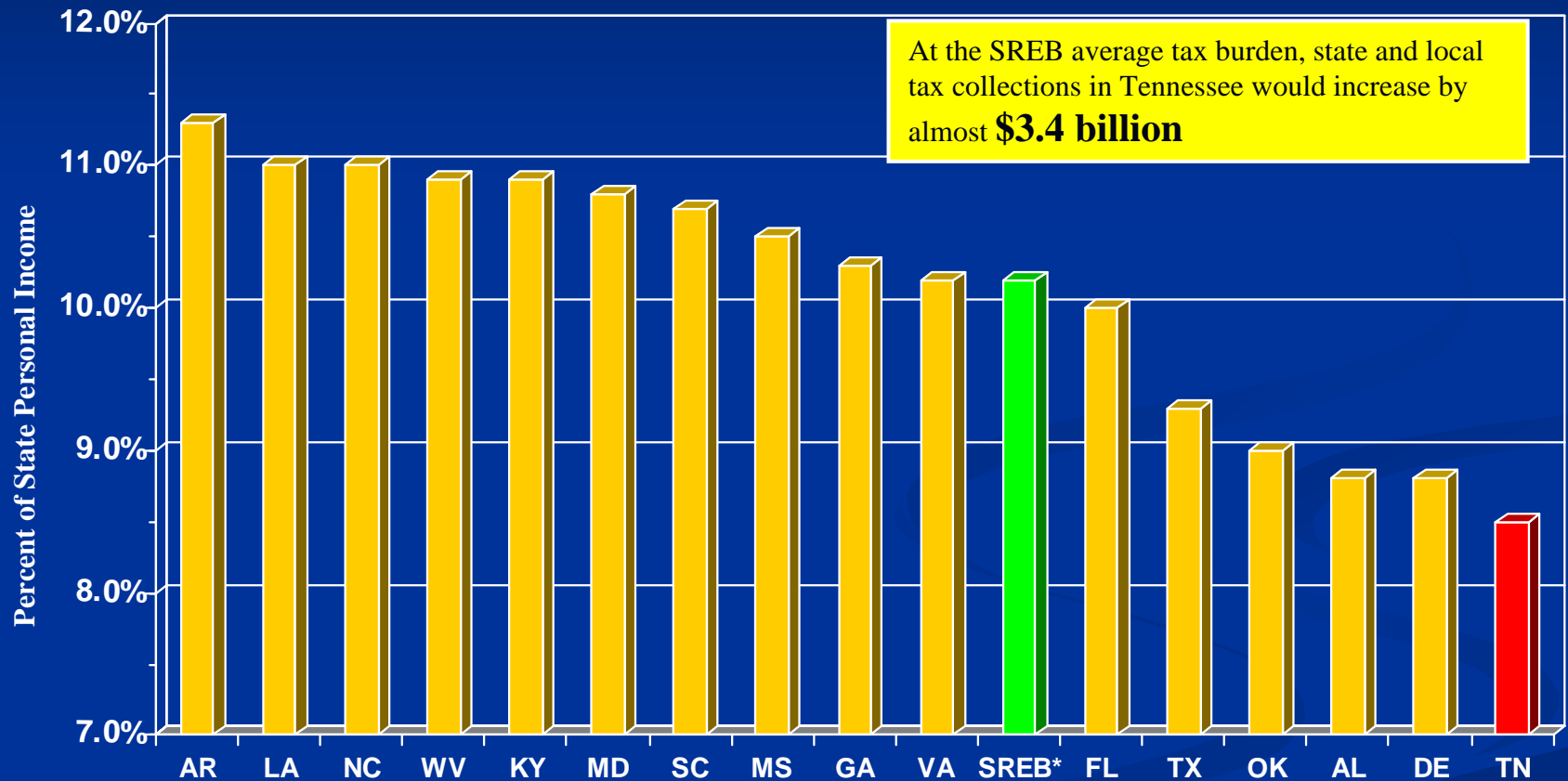
# Relationship between Proficiency Gap and % of Schools In Need of Improvement – 2005



# Reporting Progress

- The impact of making school harder means more schools will not meet standards for measured progress, INITIALLY.
- Public will serve a vital role (negative or positive)
  - Will be the interpreter of the results of the changes
  - Everyone needs to know what is happening in schools and why.
- *How the public interprets the initial results from the American Diploma changes will be very important to the long-term success.*

# 2007 State and Local Tax Burden as Share of Personal Income in the SREB States



\*Average of SREB states excluding Tennessee. The SREB average including Tennessee is 10.1%

# The Student Pipeline - Tennessee, 2004

